

The Church In Pergamum:
The Influence Of False Teachers

But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality… **Revelations 2:14**

Letters to the Seven Churches…

- Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)
- Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)
- Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)
- Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)
- Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)
- Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)
- Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life… **Revelations 2:10**

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death…. **Rev 2:11**

The City Pergamum…

- Pergamum was a city renowned for its wealth, culture, and political influence with impressive library, temples, and known as a center of emperor worship during the Roman empire.
- It was home to several pagan temples, including alters dedicated to Zeus, Athena, and Asclepius. The city was also a center for the imperial cult, where the Roman emperors were worshiped as gods.
- Also known as Pergamos it gained the name “the city where the throne of Satan is” because it was a stronghold of the devil and Christians who did not bow were killed.
- Now a ruined site in Turkey, it speaks to us today that no Jesus, no life.

The Church in Pergamum… Revelation 2:12-17

12. “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who
has the sharp two-edged sword. **13.** “‘I know where you dwell, where Satan's
throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the
days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan
dwells. **14.** But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold
the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the
sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual
immorality. **15.** So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
16. Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with
the sword of my mouth. **17.** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit
says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden
manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone
that no one knows except the one who receives it.’

The Church in Pergamum… Revelation 2:12-17

- By word of God are we to live in truth and discern false teachers and their teachings today.
- Satan has strongholds in nations and cities today but there is a remnant that are still faithful to the Lord.
- We must beware of false teachers and false teachings. Many of them have dangerously found their way into the fellowship of believers.
- Let us look to the Lord for sustenance and victory!!

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them… **Acts 20:29-30**

Warnings…

- **Matthew 7… 15.** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **16.** You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? **17.** So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. **18.** A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. **19.** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20.** Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.
- **2Timothy 4… 3.** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound[a] teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4.** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **5.** But as for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Conclusion…

1. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2.** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **3.** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already… **1John 4:1-3**

Let us pray…